

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating between a drilling rig and at least one off-site location, the method comprising:

providing a human-portable data communications module to a person [[at]] on the drilling rig;

establishing an at least two-way data communication connection between the portable data communications module and the at least one off-site location via the Internet;

drilling a wellbore to an oil and/or gas bearing formation; and

monitoring drilling activities [[at]] on the drilling rig via the portable communications module and the at least two-way data communication connection by a person at the off-site location.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising directing the activities at the drilling rig via the portable communications module and the at least two-way data communication connection by the off-site person.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining positional information of the person ~~or an object at~~ on the drilling rig and monitoring the positional information at the off-site location.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein monitoring the activities comprise the sensing of conditions within [[a]] the wellbore.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the person on the drilling rig performing a procedure related to the activities; and recording and billing the activities procedure.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein monitoring the activities comprises operation, diagnostics, or identification diagnosing a problem with the activities.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the activities comprise fishing activities recovering at least a portion of a damaged or obstructed drill string in the wellbore.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein monitoring the fishing activities comprises monitoring data transmitted from at least one sensor located in [[a]] the wellbore.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the sensor in the wellbore gathers information related to the condition of [[a]] the drill string of tubulars in the wellbore.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises providing a computer [[at]] on the drilling rig, wherein the at least two-way data communication connection is established through the computer.
11. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the positional information is determined by GPS equipment.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising comparing a GPS signal to a database to automatically identify a source of the data transmission.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said portable communications module automatically utilizes the communication connection to transmit data including status, usage, and location to a rental center according to a predetermined schedule.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the portable communications module is ~~configured to be worn by, or attached to, the person at~~ on the drilling rig.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the portable communications module is ~~configured to be detachably attached to a~~ skull-protective hardhat that is worn by the person at on the drilling rig.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein monitoring the activities comprises measuring or recording lengths of pieces of tubulars utilizing the communications module and the activities comprise assembling the tubulars to form a tubular string.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein ~~the activities further comprise automatic recording of the length of pieces of tubular prior to insertion of the pieces of tubular into a wellbore~~ monitoring the activities comprises recording the lengths of tubulars by scanning barcodes or RFID tags.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the activities comprise assembling tubulars to form a tubular string and monitoring the activities comprises measuring torque developed between adjacent pieces of tubulars being assembled together.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein ~~the portable communications module is provided on a hardhat and wherein log-on data facilitates an automatic recordal for billing of the time that the hardhat is used.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the person at on the drilling rig can manually position the communications module.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the communications module comprises an external camera.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the communications module comprises ~~a hard hat and a global positioning component~~ GPS equipment physically connected to the hard hat.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the ~~communications module comprises a hard hat having~~ has a "flip down" screen for visual display of data.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, ~~wherein the communications module comprises a hard hat and a computer~~ further comprising providing a computer on the drilling rig, wherein the at least two-way data communication connection is established through the computer.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, 25, ~~wherein the computer can be interrogated by the off-site person to review data related to current and past operations~~ wherein the computer records data related to the activities and the method further comprises reviewing data relating to past activities from the computer by the person at the off-site location.

27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a skull-protective hard hat; and
a portable communications attachment attached to the hardhat, the portable communications attachment comprising:
a transceiver,
a video display, and
an external camera.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the communications attachment further comprises a parameter measuring device.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the communication system further comprises an on-site computer that generates data or information to the off-site service computer.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the hardhat is at an on-site location and further comprising a service computer located at an off-site location; and a communication system between the communications attachment and the off-site service computer.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the communication system is capable of video transmission, audio transmission, still image transmission, and data transmission.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the communications attachment further comprises a keypad.

33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the communications attachment further comprises a microphone and a speaker.

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the communications attachment further comprises a barcode reader.

35. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the communications attachment further comprises GPS system.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising a database for storing information.

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the communication system comprises the Internet.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the communication system comprises a local link connecting the communications attachment to the remainder of the communication system.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the communication system comprises a satellite-based portion.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the communication system comprises a land-based portion.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising a data acquisition and control unit to input information sensed from a process.

42. (Currently Amended) A method of accessing and utilizing an off-site service person from an on-site location, comprising:

providing a communications module having an external camera to an on-site person;

establishing communications between the on-site person and off-site service person;

transmitting an image or video corresponding to the on-site person's view to the off-site person using the camera;

communicating one or more procedures from the off-site service person to the on-site person, wherein at least one of the one or more procedures is displayed by the communications module; and

communicating information in response to the one or more procedures from the on-site person to the off-site service person.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising tracking on line time that the on-site personnel spends communicating with the off-site service person.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising storing the communicated information in a database.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising remotely directing activity at the on-site location by the service person.

46.-48. (Canceled)

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 42, wherein at least a portion of the communications are established via the Internet.

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising communicating information relating to the drilling activities from the drilling rig to the off-site person in response to instructions received from the off-site person.

51.—54. (Canceled)

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, further comprising recording usage data regarding the communications module.

56-68. (Canceled)

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining whether there is a request to establish a connection with the off-site person located at a specific off-site computer.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69, further comprising determining the specific off-site computer to establish the connection with.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70, further comprising receiving positional information of the communications module.

72. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[71]] 1, wherein monitoring the drilling activities comprises transferring input information from the communications module to the off-site location.

73. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 72, wherein monitoring the drilling activities further comprises transferring instruction information from the off-site location to the communications module.

74. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 73, wherein monitoring the drilling activities further comprises following an operation, by the person at the drilling rig, indicated by the instruction information to obtain result information.

75. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 74, wherein monitoring the drilling activities further comprises transferring the result information from the communications module to the off-site location.

76. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 75, wherein monitoring the drilling activities further comprises analyzing the result information at the off-site location to make a determination.

77. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 76, wherein monitoring the drilling activities further comprises transferring the determination from the off-site location to the communications module.

78. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising drilling ~~the wellbore to an~~ through the oil and/or gas bearing formation.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the connection is real time.

80. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising communicating one or more procedures from the off-site person to the person ~~[[at]]~~ on the drilling rig.

81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the one or more procedures comprise an assembly drawing, a picture of a part, a video of an installation procedure, or a training session.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the one or more procedures comprise a schematic drawing of a part or machine, critical dimensions of a part or machine, or checklist or video clip showing how to use a part or machine.

83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 82, wherein the part or machine is a tong.

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 82, wherein the part or machine is fishing equipment.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 82, wherein the part or machine is a parameter measuring device.

86. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 80, further comprising the person at the drilling rig performing ~~a task using~~ the one or more procedures.

87. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the communications module is human-portable.
88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the on-site person wears the communications module or the communications module is attached to the on-site person.
89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the one or more procedures comprise an assembly drawing, a picture of a part, a video of an installation procedure, or a training session.
90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the one or more procedures comprise a schematic drawing of a part or machine, critical dimensions of a part or machine, or checklist or video clip showing how to use a part or machine.
91. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the on-site person is located at an industrial location.
92. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the image or video is of a part or machine.
93. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the activities are drilling activities.
94. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the tubulars are drill pipe and the tubular string is a drill string.
95. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the tubulars are casing and the tubular string is a casing string.